

**METHODS FOR MAKING SUSTAINED-RELEASE  
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS OF ERGOT ALKALOIDS  
HAVING IMPROVED BIOAVAILABILITY  
AND COMPOSITIONS THEREOF**

**Abstract of the Invention**

A method of improving bioavailability of ergot derivatives administered using sustained-release delivery systems includes combining an ergot derivative or mixture thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic swelling agent or mixture thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients. The bioavailability of sustained-release formulations of the present invention is at least equal to the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional delivery system. Sustained-release compositions that improve bioavailability are also provided. Methods and compositions according to the present invention may provide sustained-release characteristics while improving the bioavailability of ergot derivatives.